Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 790

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INFO NEA 13, SS 20, GPM 04, H 02, CIAE 00, INR 07, NSAE 00, RSC 01, DODE 00,
NSC 10, RSR 01, /061 W

LEGAL ADVISER

R 201115Z MAY 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3874

MAY 20 1968

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3778

LIBERTY CLAIMS

REF: TEL AVIV S 3743

I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF DISCUSSION WITH EBAN ON OTHER MATTERS MAY 19, AGAIN TO EXPRESS MY UNHAPPINESS OVER ISRAELI HANDLING OF LIBERTY CLAIMS. IN EFFECT, ISRAELIS HAVE OFFERED ONLY A NEGOTIATOR AND ONE MILLION DOLLARS AND PRINCIPLE THAT GOI WILL PAY SAME AMOUNT AS USG TO SEAMEN WHO LOSE THEIR LIVES ON COMBAT DUTY OR IN ACTIVE SERVICE. THIS DOES NOT FIT SITUATION IN WHICH US SHIP WAS NOT IN COMBAT ZONE AND NOT PARTY TO WAR. IT WE GET ARGUING OVER AMOUNTS LIKE ONE OR TWO MILLION DOLLARS, I TOLD EBAN WE WERE LOSING SIGHT OF BIG PICTURE AND OVERLOOKING IMPORTANCE FUNDAMENTAL HUMANITARIAN AND POLITICAL PROBLEM INVOLVED THIS CASE.

BARBOUR

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Wm Kelly DATE 1/24/83
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS